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U.S. Application No. 09/964,475

JUL 01 2008 REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 34-41 and 46-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tateno, U.S. Patent No. 5,778,400 (Tateno) in view of Aoyama et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,956,726 (Aoyama). The Applicants respectfully traverse, however, noting that Aoyama is not available in a combination rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because it can only be applied via 35 U.S.C. §102(e). See 35 U.S.C. §102(c). Accordingly, without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, and for brevity, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' representative at the number below to discuss this response or any other aspect of the application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. ASA-724-02).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

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